
NEWS FROM . . .

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY

CHRISTOPHER COX, CHAIRMAN <http://homeland.house.gov>



Contact: Ryan Patmintra or
Amber Wilkerson
(202) 226-9600

Homeland Security Chairman Cox Responds to the London Terrorism

Washington, DC (Thursday, July 7, 2005) — House Homeland Security Committee Chairman Christopher Cox (R-CA) issued the following statement after today's terrorist bombings in London:

"The barbaric murder of scores of civilians in the center of London is a chilling reminder that the terrorist attacks of 9/11 were not isolated. We do not know yet whether the al Qaeda claim of responsibility is authentic, but we know to a certainty that this is the work of terrorists.

"We also know the terrorist claim that 'Britain is now burning with fear, terror and Panic' is completely false. The men, women, and children of England will continue to work, learn, and help others. It isn't just that life will go on as it did before these cowardly attacks on innocent civilians. People from around the world will join with Londoners in redoubling our shared commitment to a healthy, safe, tolerant, and diverse society.

"The terrorists who appeared to warn Denmark and Italy that they will also suffer attacks have in reality ensured that Denmark, Italy, and every other civilized nation will be strengthened in their resolve to confront terrorism.

"It is vital that the civilized world unite in the effort to hunt down all of the perpetrators who are still living. But for now, the killers remain at large. They are as much a threat to Europe, to America, and to the civilized world as they are to London.

"As a result, we in the United States must redouble our efforts to prepare for terrorist attacks. I applaud the steps that Homeland Security Secretary Chertoff announced today. While we cannot turn our transit systems into hardened targets, the aggressive measures underway are aimed at meeting both our security needs and the demands of a free society.

"In addition, we should step up deployments of remote surveillance technologies in mass transit systems, which will help prevent attacks as well as aid in the capture of those responsible.

"And while much has been done to improve intelligence sharing since the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001, today's events and last year's attacks in Madrid should spur our government to further improve the flow of information and intelligence for public transit.

"From all of us on the Homeland Security Committee, we wish the very best for the people of London, and especially the families of the dead and wounded. We share in your grief, and we pray for the speedy recovery of the survivors. We will never forget what you have suffered today."

#